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Chairman: Mr. Balarezo ..... (Peru)

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04-63701 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 85: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(h) Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas (A/59/238) (*continued*)

Draft resolution on rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas (A/C.2/59/L.61)

1. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyz Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.61, informed the Committee that Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Nepal had joined the sponsors. The poor mountain countries believed that the social, economic and ecological challenges they were facing required an urgent response. About half of the world's approximately 700 million inhabitants of mountains were vulnerable to food shortages and chronic malnutrition, and suffered from unequal distribution of assets and fragile ecosystems. Moreover, their development was adversely affected by their countries' external indebtedness. International recognition, in the proposed draft resolution, of their greater vulnerability was a good first step to finding a solution to their problems and needs.

2. **Mr. Subedi** (Nepal) observed that most of the mountain countries were poverty-stricken, many of them were among the least developed, and some were further handicapped by being landlocked. The arable land in most poor mountain countries was very limited and, in addition to food shortages and remoteness from the mainstream of global trade, they faced particular environmental challenges. The vicious circle of poverty was further compounded by chronic lack of education and employment and deteriorating economic and social conditions, made worse by a heavy debt burden.

3. His own country shared all the problems common to poor mountain countries. It had been a complex task for them to try to implement the sustainable development agenda and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The international community had to help them financially and technologically in order to bring them into the mainstream of world development, and the financial and development institutions should address their specific needs.

4. It was heartening that the draft resolution under consideration recognized the particular problems and special needs of the poor mountain countries: that was a good beginning on which they could build.

5. **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin) asked whether the draft resolution meant that a new category — poor mountain countries — was being established. If so, she wished to know the number of such countries.

6. **The Chairman** said that it was his understanding that no new category of countries was being proposed. Delegations were simply being invited to comment on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.61.

Agenda item 39: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*)

Draft resolution on humanitarian and special economic assistance to Serbia and Montenegro (A/C.2/59/L.36/Rev.1)

7. **Mr. Mićić** (Serbia and Montenegro) said that the main responsibility for improving the country's humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development lay with Serbia and Montenegro. However, assistance from the international community would be crucial to ensuring a smooth transition from relief to long-term development. His Government would also be assuming primary responsibility for finding durable solutions to the problem of internally displaced persons and for establishing the necessary conditions for their safe and sustainable return to their homes. He expressed gratitude to the States that had provided humanitarian assistance and would be supporting Serbia and Montenegro during the current transitional period.

8. He introduced several revisions to the draft resolution. In the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "an" should be changed to "the" and the words "among them" should be deleted. The words "provided by" should be replaced with the word "of" and the phrase "of the Secretariat" should be deleted in the ninth preambular paragraph. In the eleventh preambular

paragraph after the words "good governance" the word "and" should be replaced by a comma. The reference to footnote 1 should be inserted at the end of the final preambular paragraph. In paragraph 1, the word "humanitarian" should be deleted. In paragraph 3, the words "for Serbia and Montenegro for the period 2005-2009" should be added after the word "outline" and the words "specialized agencies" should be deleted. In paragraph 6, "conditions necessary" should read "necessary conditions." In paragraph 8 the words "increased donor" should be inserted before the word "coordination" and the word "system" should be deleted. In paragraph 9 the word "micro" followed by a comma should replace the words "microenterprises and to" and "to households" should be changed to "their households." The phrase "which should emphasize" should be replaced by the word "emphasizing" in paragraph 10 and the words "the provision of" should be deleted in paragraph 11. Lastly, he informed the Committee that Andorra, Azerbaijan, Estonia and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the list of sponsors.

9. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following countries had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution: Angola, Costa Rica, Morocco, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.36/Rev.1 as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft resolution on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia (A/C.2/59/L.40/Rev.1)

11. **The Chairman** said that Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, France, Germany, Greece, India, the Netherlands, the Niger, Sweden, Turkey and Uganda had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.40/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 44: Information and communication technologies for development (*continued*)

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on communications for development programmes in the United Nations system, contained in document A/59/207. He suggested that the Committee should take note of the report.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that her delegation had no objection to taking note of the report but sought clarification regarding the agenda item to which the note by the Secretary-General related. It had previously related to agenda item 91, entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues."

16. **Ms. Pliner-Josephs** (Deputy Secretary of the Committee) said that, at the request of UNESCO, the note had been put under item 44 rather than item 91. The change had been made before the Committee had begun its work in October.

Agenda item 83: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt crisis and development (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on external debt crisis and development (A/C.2/59/L.3 and A/C.2/59/L.53)

17. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.53, which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.3.

18. **Mr. Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala), speaking as Facilitator of the consultations, said that the following revisions should be made to draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.53. In paragraph 4 the words "the fact" should be deleted and the word "including" should be inserted between "caused by" and "inter alia". In paragraph 11, the words "to address comprehensively" should read "to comprehensively address" and a full stop should be inserted after the words "debt problems of those countries." The following sentence should begin with the words "Such mechanisms may include" and the words "as, inter alia" should be deleted. In paragraph 15, the words "collective action clauses" should have initial capital letters. The Spanish text should be revised to bring it in line with the English text.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.*

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.3 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 87: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.19 and A/C.2/59/L.59

21. **Mr. Bernardini** (Italy) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.59, which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.19.

22. **Mr. Savchuk** (Ukraine) announced that Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. He made an editorial change to the Russian text in the third preambular paragraph to bring it into line with the English text.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.59 was adopted.*

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.19 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 88: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries (A/C.2/59/L.43 and L.60)

25. **Mr. Abreha** (Ethiopia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.60, said that he hoped it would be adopted by consensus.

26. **Mr. Rojas** (Chile), referring to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, said that his delegation would join the consensus on the understanding that the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and the freedom of transit indicated must be exercised in accordance with article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and with existing bilateral treaties on the matter.

27. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.60, noted that paragraph 11 requested the Office of the High Representative to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and that paragraph 12 requested the Secretary-General to take necessary measures to provide adequate resources to the Office within existing resources so as to allow it to carry out its added mandate.

28. It would be recalled that paragraph 10.6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 indicated, with reference to section 10, that activities under that Programme of Action might be revised in the light of subsequent General Assembly decisions on the matter. Although the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action had expanded the mandate of the Office of the High Representative, provisions for activities of that nature had already been included in section 10, and thus no additional appropriation would be required if the draft resolution was adopted. The requirements in regard to the added mandate would subsequently be reviewed during the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

29. He drew the Committee's attention to the provision of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, which reaffirmed the responsibilities of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in administrative and budgetary matters.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.60 was adopted.*

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.43 was withdrawn.*

32. **Mr. Khammanichanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the group of landlocked developing countries, thanked all who had

made it possible to adopt the first substantive resolution of the General Assembly relating to the Almaty Conference, which provided clear guidance to the United Nations system concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action. Since it was particularly important for the Office of the High Representative to have adequate resources to carry out its added mandate, it was encouraging that the issue would again be addressed in the context of the next programme budget, as called for in paragraph 12 of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 89: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(b) Women in development (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (A/C.2/59/L.48 and L.58)

33. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.58, said that, in the preambular paragraph, the date of resolution 58/206 should be given as 23 December 2003, and that, in paragraph 2, the phrase ", to be identified at its sixtieth session" should, with the following comma deleted, be transferred to the end of the paragraph following the word "levels". He hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

34. *Draft r olution A/C.2/59/L.58, as orally revised, was adopted.*

35. *Draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.48 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.